

## MATERNAL DEATH RATES BY COUNTY AND RACE

### Objective

By 1990, the maternal mortality rate should not exceed five per 100,000 live births for any county or for any ethnic group (e.g., Black, Hispanic, American Indian).

### Explanatory Notes

Includes ICD codes 630-676 of the Ninth Revision and 630-678 of the Eighth Revision. County rates are for the five-year period 1982-86.

### Findings

As shown in the table on page 26, twenty-seven of the state's 100 counties experienced some maternal mortality during 1982-86. However, 19 of the 27 counties experienced only one death and five experienced only two. Due to the instability of rates based on such small numbers, the application of this objective to counties seems ill-advised and county rates have not been calculated.

The state's white maternal death rate was below 5.0 in three of the last five years and is projected to decline to about 1.0 in 1990. The nonwhite maternal death rate remains well above 5.0 but is projected to decline to about 6.2 in 1990. Nationally, it appears unlikely that this objective will be met for any race group, and it has been suggested that the numerical objective for counties be dropped and the objective be revised as follows: By 1990, the three-year-average maternal mortality rate should not exceed five per 100,000 live births for any racial or ethnic group (e.g., Black, Hispanic, Native American) (3).

### Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics  
United States: National Center for Health Statistics